

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-37 (Canceled).

38. (Currently amended) A system for distributing music to consumer locations comprising:

a data transmission system configured to blanket transmit a plurality of music content items to at least one remote consumer location in digital form;

a central controller system configured to store therein an address corresponding to the at least one consumer location;

a mechanism configured to verify to the controller system when a pre-selected music content item has been recorded at the at least one consumer location comprising:

a mechanism configured to transmit pricing information for the pre-selected music content item to a billing module of a user station where it is stored in nonvolatile memory for subsequent querying by the central controller; and

a mechanism for receiving the pricing information for the pre-selected music content item stored in the billing module of the user station once a consumer makes an indication at a user station that the consumer wishes to record the music content item at the user station; and

a billing system associated with the central controller system configured to bill said consumer for pre-selected music content items that have been recorded at the at least one consumer location.

39. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 38 for distributing music to consumer locations further comprising:

a user station for placement at the at least one consumer location, the user station comprising:

a pre-selection mechanism configured to enable a consumer to pre-select from the blanket transmission of a plurality of music content items specific music content items for storage at the at least one consumer location; and

a selection mechanism configured to enable said consumer to select for playback any

one of the pre-selected music content items that are stored at the at least one consumer location.

40. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 39 for distributing music to consumer locations further comprising an access mechanism configured to enable the user station to access a content library, said content library comprising said pre-selected music content items.

41. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 40 for distributing music to consumer locations further comprising:

a play list mechanism configured to enable said consumer location to construct a play list of said content library; and

a playing mechanism configured to play said play list in any sequence at any time.

42. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 41 for distributing music to consumer locations, wherein said play list mechanism comprises an ordering mechanism configured to order said sequence including continuous playback, shuffle, sort-by-artist, sort-by-title or sort-by-category.

43. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 39 for distributing music to consumer locations, wherein said user station has a portion of a high capacity storage medium dedicated to recording pre-selected music selections.

44. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 43 for distributing music to consumer locations, wherein said high capacity storage medium is a hard drive.

45. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 39 wherein said a pre-selection mechanism comprises: a menu driven, graphical user interface with simplified controls providing music selection by artist, title and category.

46. (Previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 39 wherein said a pre-selection mechanism comprises a consumer preference selection mechanism configured to enable selection of consumer preferred music styles by a consumer at said consumer location.

47. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 46 wherein said consumer preference selection mechanism comprises a graphical user interface with a music style preferences list.

48. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 39 wherein said consumer preference selection mechanism comprises: a graphical user interface with music style, subgroup and artist preferences lists for a more detailed selection by said consumer.

49. (Previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 39 further comprising a high capacity storage medium connected to a permanent storage medium.

50. (Previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 39 wherein a central controller system comprises:

- a general population cluster preference database;
- a consumer catalog generator module;
- an individual consumer preference information storage module; and
- a payload scheduler.

51. (Previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 50 wherein said individual consumer preference information storage module comprises an information collection mechanism configured to obtain said consumer preferred music styles of each consumer.

52. (Previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 50 wherein said general population cluster preference database comprises a consumer preference collection mechanism configured to obtain said consumer preferred music styles of a plurality of consumer locations.

53. (Previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 50 wherein said consumer catalog generator module comprises:

- a catalog generation mechanism configured to generate an individual consumer catalog based on an analysis of said consumer preferred music styles of a plurality of consumer locations from said general population cluster preference database and said consumer preferred music styles from said individual consumer preference information storage module.

54. (Previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 53 wherein the system is operable for a plurality of ID headers on all of the pre-selected music content items to be read and only those that are indicated by said individual consumer catalog as being desirable to the consumer are selected for recording.

55. (Previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 39 wherein said user station has a download module for decoding pricing information and said transmitted music content items.

56. (currently amended) A method of distributing music to consumer locations comprising the acts of:

blanket transmitting a plurality of music content items to at least one consumer location;

providing the at least one consumer location with information identifying available music content items that may be transmitted;

verifying to a controller system that the pre-selected music selection has been recorded at the at least one consumer location, said verifying comprising:

transmitting pricing information for the pre-selected music content item to a billing module of a user station where it is stored in nonvolatile memory for subsequent querying by the central controller; and

receiving the pricing information for the pre-selected music content item stored in the billing module of the user station once a consumer makes an indication at a user station that the consumer wishes to record the music content item at the user station; and

billing said at least one consumer location for the recorded music selections that are recorded at the at least one consumer location.

57. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56 for distributing music to consumer locations further comprising providing a pre-selection mechanism to the at least one consumer location configured to enable pre-selection of and record desired music selections included in the blanket transmission of a plurality of music content items.

58. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 57 for distributing music to consumer locations wherein the pre-selection mechanism comprises a content library, said content library comprising said pre-selected music selections.

59. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 57 for distributing music to consumer locations further comprising providing a playback mechanism configured to playback recorded music selections according to a consumer location created play list, said play list being arranged to play said recorded music selections in any sequence at any time.

60. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 59 for distributing music to consumer locations wherein a menu driven, graphical user interface with simplified controls for user selection of said music is part of the consumer location created play list.

61. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 57 for distributing music to consumer locations, wherein said blanket transmission is direct broadcast satellite data transmission accomplished with substantially a 240 watt transponder, thereby increasing effective transponder capacity.

62. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 57 wherein a consumer of said consumer location selects consumer preferred music styles by using a graphical user interface having a musical style preferences list.

63. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 62 wherein said consumer of said consumer location may select additional consumer preferences of music subgroup and artist by using said graphical user interface having additionally a subgroup preferences list and an artist preferences list.

64. (currently amended) An apparatus for distributing music to consumer locations comprising:

a data transmission device configured to blanket transmit a plurality of music content items to at least one remote consumer location in digital form;

a ~~receiving~~ verification mechanism configured to verify when a pre-selected music content item as been recorded at the at least one consumer location, said verification mechanism comprising:

a mechanism configured to transmit pricing information for the pre-selected music content item to a billing module of a user station where it is stored in nonvolatile memory for subsequent querying by the central controller; and

a mechanism for receiving the pricing information for the pre-selected music content item stored in the billing module of the user station once a consumer makes an indication at a user station that the consumer wishes to record the music content item at the user station; and

a billing mechanism configured to bill a consumer associated with the at least one consumer location for pre-selected music content items that have been recorded at the at least one consumer location.

65. (Previously presented) The apparatus for distributing music of Claim 64 further comprising:

a general population cluster preference database;
a consumer catalog generator module;
an individual consumer preference information storage module; and
a payload scheduler.

66. (Previously presented) The apparatus for distributing music of Claim 65 wherein said individual consumer preference information storage module comprises an information collection mechanism configured to obtain said consumer preferred music styles of each consumer.

67. (Previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 65 wherein said consumer catalog generator module comprises:

a catalog generation mechanism configured to generate an individual consumer catalog based on an analysis of said consumer preferred music styles of a plurality of consumer locations from said general population cluster preference database and said consumer preferred music styles from said individual consumer preference information storage module.